Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Jam n agar and Palanpur

458. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some telephone exchanges in Jamnagar and Palanpur to be modernised and provided with STD/ISD facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made so far; and

(d) by when, the work would be compleged ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) As on date all the exchanges in Jamnagar and Palanpur are Electronic.

(ii) All have STD/ISD (Subscriber Trunk Dialling/ International Subscriber Dialling) facilities.

(iii) Except One Exchange in Palanpur, all are on reliable media.

(c) and (d) The reliable media for remaining one exchange in Palanpur is likely to be commissioned by December, 2001.

Telephone Facilities

†459. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2398, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th December, 2000 and state :

(a) the latest position with regard to telephone facilities and the number of villages in Uttaranchal which are yet to be provided with telephone facility; and

(b) whether the largets for the year 2001 have been achieved and what measures are being taken to achieve the targets for the entire State by March, 2002 ?

THEMMSTEROFSTATEINTHEMIMSTRYOFroMMUNI-CATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):

(a) Out of 15,947 villages in Uttaranchal, 7,963 villages have been provided with telecom facility upto 31/10/2001. 7,894 villages are yet to be provided with telephone facility in Uttaranchal.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.